Development of Infrastructural Facilities

3027. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has at any stage examined that India does not figure high on the global travellers' itinerary;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the volume of business done by this segment pales into insignificance when compared to the business done in some of the tiny countries that dot the world map;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the tourism segment in India is bedevilled by infrastructural inadequacies such as shortage of accommodation, poor transport and communication facilities;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to overcome these infrastructural inadequacies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d). The shares of India in the world tourist arrivals and receipts in the year 1995 were 0.37% and 0.74% respectively.

(e) to (g). Inadequate infrastructure facilities is the major constraint in the growth of tourism in the country. The efforts of the Government are to improve the infrastructure facilities in coordination with the State Governments and by encouraging the private sector to invest in tourism infrastructure. The Government has prepared a National Tourism Strategy paper which envisages a synergized approach to tourism development, involving other Ministries, State Governments, financial institutions and the private sector.

Introduction of Shuttle Service between Dum-Dum and Barasat

3028. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand for introducing shuttle service between Dum-Dum and Barasat;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is possible to extend 4.55 P.M.s Birati local train upto Barasat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dum-Dum and Barasat are already connected with 55 pairs of train services. Introduction of an originating' train from Dum-Dum/Barasat has been examined but not found feasible at present as Dum-Dum does not have terminal facilities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Post Offices in Kerala

3029. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of new Post Kerala during 1996-97, so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : During 1996-97, 3 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 2 Departmental Sub Offices have been sanctioned and 4 Extra Departmental Branch Offices have been upgraded into Departmental Sub Offices.

Speed Post Facility to W. Bengal

3030. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide Speed Post Service Facility in major cities of West Bengal;

(b) is so, the district-wise details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Speed Post Facility is at present provided in the following cities/towns of West Bengal :

National Speed Post Service

Calcutta
Howrah
Siliguri

Point to Point Speed Post Service

Berhampur.
Haldia
Shantiniketan
Raniganj

At present Govt. has no proposal to extend Speed Post Service to any other major cities of West Bengal. A particular city is brought under speed Post National Network only when there is sufficient traffic to make it financially viable and operationally feasible.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

3031. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of representations received by the